

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03  
PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00  
INRE-00 EURE-00 HEW-04 SCA-01 /056 W  
-----031834Z 113079 /50

O R 031620Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4676

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMASSY BONN

USMISSION USBERLIN UNN

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BONN AND USBERLIN FOR USIS

E O 11652: NA

TAGS: SCUL, GE, US

SUBJ: USG-GDR CULTURAL RELATIONS

1. IN ANTICIPATION OF MAY 4 MEETING OF DEP.ASST. SECRETARY VINE, WITH GDR CULTURAL DELEGATION, DEPARTMENT AND USIA MAY FIND FOLLOWING REVIEW OF CURRENT STATUS VARIOUS US PROJECTS USEFUL AS DISCUSSION GUIDELINES. WITHIN THE PAST THREE MONTHS THREE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE GIVE AND TAKE ACROSS THE SPECTRUM OF PROGRAMS ALREADY AGREED TO, AND FREQUENTLY THE IMAGE HAS BEEN BLURRED. THIS SUMMARY WILL ATTEMPT TO BRING MATTERS BACK INTO FOCUS.

2. IN DECEMBER 1976 EMBASSY PROPOSED CULTURAL PLAN TO MFA CONSISTING OF FOUR PROGRAMS: US FILM WEEK, LITERARY SEMINAR, PERFORMING ARTS GROUP, PAUL STRAND EXHIBIT. IN JANUARY 1977 MFA RESPONDED POSITIVELY AND ACCEPTED ALL FOUR PROGRAMS, THEN COUNTER-PROPOSED EVEN LARGER PROGRAM TO INCLUDE US MUSEUM EXHIBIT IN GDR ON SCALE OF UPCOMING DRESDEN ART COLLECTION; PARTICIPATION IN LEIPZIG FILM DOCUMENTARY WEEK AND IN BERLIN CULTURAL FESTIVAL; EXCHANGE OF  
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BOOK EXHIBITS WITH UNIVERSITIES AND LIBRARIES; REGULARIZING THE FILM RETROSPECTIVES; AND EXCHANGE OF SCHOLARS AND COUNTRY SPECIALISTS FOR SEMINARS, LECTURES AND TRAVEL. IN MARCH 1977, EMBASSY ACCEPTED AUGMENTED GDR PROPOSALS AND CONVEYED INVITATION BY LOS ANGELES CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL HAVE GDR SUBMIT ENTREES WHICH REPRESENTED FIRST IMPLEMENTATION NEW PROPOSALS. MEANWHILE AND TO DATE, NONE OF THE ORIGINAL

FOUR PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN REALIZED FOR DIFFERING REASONS.

3. FILM WEEK: ORIGINALLY CONCEIVED AS A MIXTURE OF SILENT AND MORE CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN FILMS, THIS PROJECT SUFFERED DELAYS PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF THE MAJOR DIFFICULTY IN ACQUIRING GERMAN-LANGUAGE VERSIONS. THE EMBASSY LEARNED ONLY IN FEBRUARY THAT IT HAD TO RELY ON ITS OWN RESOURCES AND THEREUPON ENLISTED THE AID OF USIS GERMANY WITH WEST GERMAN DISTRIBUTORS, BUT THE APRIL DEADLINE COULD NOT BE MET. IN CONSEQUENCE, THE MFA DECIDED UNILATERALLY TO PUT ON A D.W. GRIFFITH RETROSPECTIVE INSTEAD, PROPOSING THAT THE MODERN FILM WEEK BE POSTPONED UNTIL 1978. THE GRIFFITH PROGRAM - POORLY ATTENDED - HAS JUST ENDED BUT THE EMBASSY HAS PERSISTED IN REQUESTING THAT THE MODERN FILM WEEK STILL BE PROGRAMMED FOR 1977. LATE IN APRIL, THE MFA AGREED TO RECONSIDER A 1977 PROGRAMMING ONCE A LIST OF PROPOSED FILMS WAS SUBMITTED. THE EMBASSY HAS SOLICITED JUST A LIST FROM GERMAN FILM DISTRIBUTORS AND IS NOW GETTING REPLIES - THUS FAR ALL POSITIVE, AND EXPECTS TO SUBMIT TITLES BY MID-MAY IN THE HOPE OF HAVING THE FILM WEEK IN SEPTEMBER. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE GDR HINDERED PROGRAMMING THE FILM WEEK, AND IN FACT BY SUBSTITUTING THE GRIFFITH PROGRAM IN THE ABSENCE OF A MODERN FILM PACKAGE INDICATED A DESIRE TO PUT ON SOMETHING RATHER THAN NOTHING. OFFICIALS OF THE GDR STATE FILM ARCHIVES, WHICH SPONSORED THE GRIFFITH, HAVE SAID AS MUCH BUT ALSO DISPLAYED THEIR EAGERNESS TO HAVE THE MODERN FILMS LATER THIS YEAR. DEPARTMENT REQUESTED IMPRESS ON GDR DELEGATION NEED FOR US FILM WEEK THIS YEAR AS ORIGINALLY AGREED.

4. LITERARY SEMINAR: ALTHOUGH JAMES DICKEY WAS PROPOSED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO MFA AND REPLY EXPECTED SHORTLY ON PROGRAMMING DETAILS, JUST-RECEIVED CABLE CANCELLING DICKEY VISIT HAS OVERTAKEN PROJECT. DR. MERKEL OF MFA HAS BEEN SO INFORMED. EMBASSY AWAITS NEW CU NAME CANDIDATE.

5. PERFORMING ARTS GROUP: MFA NOW GIVING CONSIDERATION TO PHIL ARTE STRING QUARTET, JUST PROPOSED DURING ABSENCE OF GDR DELEGATION, AND HAS SAID NO PROBLEM FORESEEN FOR SEPTEMBER BOOKING.

6. PAUL STRAND: ALTHOUGH A HITCH HAS DEVELOPED IN FINDING A SUITABLE EXHIBIT SPACE DURING THE LAST THREE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT THAT THE EMBASSY WAS AS

SURPRISED AS THE GDR AUTHORITIES TO LEARN OF THE RESTRICTIVE CONDITIONS NECESSARY FOR THIS PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBIT, THEREBY LIMITING THE POSSIBILITIES TO ONLY TWO SITES, THE OLD MUSEUM AND STAATSBIBLIOTHEK, BOTH, ACCORDING TO THE

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS LONG SINCE BOOKED. WHEN THE MFA FIRST AGREED TO THE STRAND FOR 1977, IT NATURALLY ASSUMED, AS DID THE EMBASSY, THAT ANY ONE OF MANY SITES WERE SUITABLE. THE FRG, FOR INSTANCE, HAD AN ENORMOUSLY SUCCESSFUL PHOTO EXHIBIT INSIDE THE TELEVISION TOWER AT ALEXANDERPLATZ, BUT WHEN IT BECAME KNOWN THAT THE PHILADELPHIA MUSEUM OF ART WAS HIGHLY SELECTIVE AS TO EXHIBIT SPACE, PUBLIC AREAS SUCH AS THE TOWER WERE OBVIOUSLY UNSUITABLE. ALTHOUGH THE GDR HAS SUGGESTED THAT WE POSTPONE THE STRAND UNTIL 1978 AND THEREBY BE GUARANTEED THE BEST SITE, ON MAY 2 DR. MERKEL SAID HE WOULD PERSONALLY LOOK INTO A BERLIN SHOWING YET IN 1977. DEPARTMENT REQUESTED UNDERLINE NEED FOR 1977 SHOWING, SO THAT ORIGINAL CULTURAL PLAN BE ADHERED TO AND 1978 BE TIME-FRAME FOR NEWER GDR-USG CULTURAL PROGRAMS. EMBASSY HOPES AGENCY CAN CONVINCE PHILMUSEUM ACCEPT LESS THAN FLAWLESS SITE.

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INRE-00 EURE-00 HEW-04 SCA-01 /056 W  
-----031833Z 113288 /50

O R 031620Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4677  
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
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7. IREX: EMBASSY LOOKS FORWARD TO AN EXPANDED PROGRAM OF ACADEMIC EXCHANGE WITHIN THE IREX AGREEMENT, BUT REQUESTS DEPARTMENT STRESS IMPORTANCE OF BOTH ADEQUATE HOUSING AND ACCESS TO ARCHIVES. ONE IREX SCHOLAR WAS REJECTED IN FEBRUARY BECAUSE HE WANTED TO RESEARCH IN STATE ARCHIVES IN POTSDAM, AND THEN ACCEPTED ONLY AFTER REQUEST WAS CHANGED TO UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES. EMBASSY HOLDS VIEW THAT IMBALANCE CONTINUES EXIST BETWEEN OPPORTUNITIES FOR US SCHOLARS IN GDR AND GDR SCHOLARS IN U.S. AT DEPARTMENT'S REQUEST, EMBASSY RECENTLY INFORMED MFA OF LACK OF LECTURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR AMERICAN SCHOLARS, A SITUATION WHICH CONTINUES EXIST FOR IREX FOLLOWS.

8. HEW/OE: THE SAME MAY HOLD TRUE FOR THIS NEW CATEGORY OF RESEARCH PROGRAM IN THE GDR, WHICH ALTHOUGH NOW OFFICIALLY CONSISTING OF ONLY ONE ACCEPTED SCHOLAR, MAY INCREASE SOON. THE EMBASSY HAS REQUESTED APPROVAL FOR FOUR MORE CANDIDATES BUT THE MFA HAS NOT RESPONDED AS YET. EMBASSY AWARE THAT SOME AMERICAN ACADEMICIANS TRAVEL TO GDR BY INVITATION FROM UNIVERSITIES AND INSTITUTES, BUT CANNOT GUAGE SIZE OF CATEGORY SINCE MOST DO NOT REPORT TO EMBASSY. BUT EMBASSY FULLY COGNIZANT OF LIMITATIONS IMPOSED ON IREX AND HEW PROGRAMS.

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9. HOLMES VISA: EMBASSY STILL HAS NOT BEEN INFORMED BY EITHER MFA OR MINIGHED OF TRUE REASON FOR TERMINATION OF HOLMES VISA, WHICH NOW, THROUGH IREX PRESSURE DURING NEGOTIATIONS, HAS BEEN REVERSED. OBVIOUSLY ORIGINAL ARGUMENT REPEATED SEVERAL GDR LEVELS THAT ABSENCE CULTURAL AGREEMENT LIMITS VISA FOR SCHOLARS TO SIX MONTHS NOW NOT VALID. EMBASSY CONTINUES TO THINK HOLMES' CONTACTS WITH DISSIDENT WRITERS, NECESSARY TO HER PROJECT, MAY HAVE BEEN DETERMINING FACTOR. IN ANY CASE, GDR ANXIETY SIGN EXPANDED IREX AGREEMENT APPARENTLY WAS OVERSHELMING ENOUGH TO EXPOSE FALSITY OF EARLIER REASONS. EMBASSY WILL MONITOR FURTHER TREATMENT HOLMES DURING NEXT SIX MONTHS AND CONTINUE TRY LEARN NATURE OF HOLMES CASE.

10. HUMBOLDT UNIVERSITY BOOK PRESENTATION: THIS PRESENTATION OF APPROXIMATELY 1000 VOLUMES TO HUMBOLDT HAS BEEN INEXPLICABLY DELAYED FOR MONTHS, EVEN THOUGH EMBASSY HAS REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED WISH PRESENT BOOKS, HAS COMPLIED WITH REQUEST THAT ALL BE TRANSFERRED TO MINHIGHED, AND AGREED TO PROPOSAL THAT BULK BE GIVEN TO HUMBOLDT WITH REMAINDER TO KARL MARX UNIVERSITY IN LEIPZIG. BUT

UNCANNILLY, DURING DRAFTING THIS CABLE, MINHIGHED PHONED TO SAY THAT DATE FOR PRESENTATION TO HUMBOLDT RECTOR WOULD BE ANNOUNCED MAY 4. CONSEQUENTLY, EMBASSY CAN ONLY COMPLAIN ABOUT DELAY BUT NOT THAT PRESENTATION HAS BEEN FORGOTTEN.

11. SUMMARIZING, EMBASSY IS STRUCK BY PATTERN OF UNREALIZED CULTURAL PLAN WHICH IS NEVERTHELESS DUE PROBLEMS CREATED ON US SIDE: GERMAN-VERSIONS FOR FILM WEEK, DICKEY CANCELLATION, STRAND EXHIBIT CONDITIONS, AND IF PROBLEMS DO DEVELOP WITH THE BOOKING OF PHILARTE QUARTET, IT MUST BE ADMITTED THAT THEIR AVAILABILITY WAS MADE KNOWN TO THE MFA AT A LATE DATE. IF THE GDR WANTED TO SUBDUE OUR PRESENCE, WHICH EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE (E.G. THE GDR INITIATIVE FOR THE INDUSTRIAL DESIGN EXHIBIT) PROBLEMS OF OUR OWN MAKING HAVE MADE IT EASIER FOR THEM TO DO SO. YET,

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IN EVERY INSTANCE, THE HOPE OF A SOLUTION HAS BEEN HELD OUT, AND  
AS WE HAVE LEARNED FROM RECENT EXPERIENCE, IT WILL BE  
NECESSARY TO EXERCISE FIRMNESS AND PERSEVERANCE, AND TO CONVEY TO  
THE GDR AS WE REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT TO DO WITH THE GDR  
DELEGATION THAT NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS AND THE PROMOTION OF  
CULTURAL PROGRAMS CAN BE AND ARE CONCOMITANT MEANS TO A COMMONLY  
DESIRED END.POLANSKY

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## Message Attributes

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**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009